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## What's New? 8<sup>th</sup> Nov 23

## Reminder about Our Voice events coming up

Our Voice presents: Get to know the Joint Service for Disabled Children (short breaks and social care)

This is an important event giving an exceptional opportunity to parents to hear directly from the Head of the Joint Service for Disabled Children (JSDC), responsible for Short Breaks/Cheviots and Social Care. The event includes workshops on Short Breaks and Positive Behaviour Support as well as a Q&A session, and opportunities to book one-to-one meetings with Cheviots/JSDC staff to discuss specific issues relating to your child.

See our website [here](#), for more details about the event including the full agenda and book your place [here](#).

Reminder: Choosing a primary school for your child with additional needs

If you are in the process of choosing a primary school for your child or are thinking ahead to making this choice in the next couple of years, come along to our next 'Choosing a Primary School for your child with Additional Needs' videoconference, in conjunction with SENDIASS and the SEN Services team.

**Our Voice presents:**  
Get to know Social Care, Short Breaks & the Joint Service for Disabled Children

We are delighted to announce that booking is now open for the first in our series of 'Our Voice Presents...' events which give parents and carers an exceptional opportunity to speak directly to the Heads of service areas supporting children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

In this session we will be joined by Mini Dhamo the Head of the Joint Service for Disabled Children and responsible for short breaks (including Cheviots Children's Disability Service) and Social Care.

Registration from 9.30 am	
10 – 11 am	Overview and Q&A session
11 am – 12 noon	Either: Short Breaks workshop OR: Positive Behaviour Support workshop OR: 1:1 appointment (subject to availability)

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November 10 am to 12 noon (registration from 9.30 am) at Cheviots Children's Centre

Sign up using this link:  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/get-to-know-jsdc-nov23>

For more information see the full brochure on our website events page <https://www.ourvoicesendfield.org.uk/events>

Or contact Our Voice on Telephone 07516 862315 Email [info@ourvoicesendfield.org.uk](mailto:info@ourvoicesendfield.org.uk)

**SENDIASS**

**Our Voice**

**Choosing a Primary School**

**ENFIELD SENDIASS AND OUR VOICE PARENT CARER FORUM - INFORMATION SESSIONS**

Does your child have additional needs? Would you like more information on choosing a primary school, and how the process works?

Enfield SENDIASS and Our Voice Parent Forum are hosting an online information session for parents who want more information on choosing a primary school for children with additional needs, and expressing your preferences for children who have Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). We will also be joined by a member of the SEN Team for additional advice on the process and timescales.

We will discuss the process, how you can get information about schools and what to look out for when making decisions.

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 1 – 2.30 pm**  
Book at: <https://www.choosing-primary-school-23.on.eventbrite.co.uk>

The session will be hosted on Zoom. You will get the required Zoom link once you have registered. Please email Our Voice at [info@ourvoicesendfield.org.uk](mailto:info@ourvoicesendfield.org.uk) or phone 07516 862315 if you have any problems booking.

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**ENFIELD**

The final session will be on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November from 1 – 2.30 pm**. We will look at what to think about when choosing a school, and how the process works (for children with or without an EHCP).

You can book your place via Eventbrite [here](#). For more information about the process and the videoconference, and useful resources, see our website [here](#).

You might also be interested in registering for the 'Rising to Reception' programme for children with communication difficulties due to start primary school next September – see next page for details.

## Our Voice Christmas Party

Our Christmas party has proved as popular as ever and we are currently fully booked for this event. However, we do usually have some cancellations, so if you are interested please register to join our waiting list, and we will contact you if any places become available.

Join the waiting list [here](#).

## Our Voice Christmas party

Sun 3rd Dec 23: 2- 4.30 pm at Russet House School



This party is for children and young people with special needs /disabilities living in Enfield, and their families.

Please join us for our Christmas party for all our wonderful children!

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December  
2 to 4.30 pm

At: Russet House School,  
Autumn Close, Enfield,  
EN1 4JA

Parents are responsible for their own children at all times throughout the event.

Places are limited and **must** be pre-booked here:

<https://OV-christmasparty-23.eventbrite.co.uk>

Lots of fun activities including a bouncy castle, a wonderful show from Mr Marvel, soft play, sensory room, toys and crafts and PS4.

Light refreshments will be provided

The event is free but donations are welcome - suggested donation of £1 per person.

Places are limited and you **must** book a space for yourself and everyone (adult and child) who will be attending with you.

## Rising to Reception

'Rising to Reception' is a programme aimed at the families of children with communication difficulties who are due to start primary school in September 2024 (i.e. born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020).



BETTER COMMUNICATION FOR ALL **ECASS**

### THE ECASS RISING TO RECEPTION OFFER

If your child will be starting Reception in September 2024...

The ECASS team have designed a transition programme in partnership with the pre-school speech and language therapy service to support you and your child to be ready for this important milestone. Sign up for Rising to Reception events throughout this school year.

 ENFIELD EDUCATION SERVICE

The Enfield Communication Advisory Support Service (ECASS) service and partners will be running the series of **Rising to Reception** sessions throughout the year to help prepare your child for starting school.

Children with communication difficulties can find transitions to new settings challenging, so ECASS have teamed up with colleagues and volunteers across Enfield to put together an exciting series of online information sessions to prepare you for the big day next September.

You can see the whole programme of events and the link to register your interest, in the booklet [here](#).

The first sessions on 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> November will be with the Enfield Admissions team, who will help you through the process of applying for a reception place for September 2024.

If you have any further queries, please contact the ECASS team at: [RisingtoReception@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:RisingtoReception@enfield.gov.uk)

# Tell us about your experiences

## Choosing a primary school or choosing a secondary school

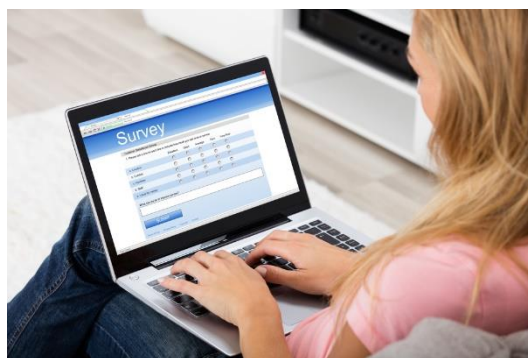
We would really like to hear about your experiences when looking at Primary or Secondary schools this year - whether good or bad. We know that all schools are meant to be inclusive for children with Disabilities and Special Needs – but is that the reality? Did you feel that your child would be welcomed and supported at the school, or were you discouraged (actively or subtly) from sending your child to that school?

Please let us know by completing the short survey

For primary schools please complete the survey [here](#)

For secondary schools please complete the survey [here](#)

It should only take around 5 minutes to do. To thank you for your time we will randomly select **3 survey entries from each survey to receive a £20 Amazon voucher** (see survey page for details and make sure you have given us your contact details if you would like to be included).



## Request for feedback from the Joint Service for Disabled Children.

The Joint Service for Disabled Children is undertaking a review of the allocation process for short breaks, and they need your help.

## We need your feedback!

The Joint Service for Disabled Children is undertaking a review of the allocation process for short breaks, and we need your help!

The aim of the review is to look at the panel, the paperwork and referrals and make sure our process for allocating short breaks is fair and efficient and meets the assessed needs of children and young people. As parents and carers, it is vital your views are heard and considered so that any outcomes are shaped to the needs of you and those you care for.

There are three ways you can get involved and provide your feedback!

1. **Fill out our survey** – We are running an anonymous survey to find out what you think about the current process and give you an opportunity to outline what you think works well, what needs improvement and share any suggestions you might have.

You can access the survey via the link below or scan the QR by opening the camera on your smart phone and hovering over the code:

<https://forms.office.com/e/WCFg1Bz2W1>



2. **Participate in one of our focus groups** – We are running an online focus group on the 14<sup>th</sup> November 10am – 11am to hear feedback and discuss the current process, allowing us to explore the issues in more detail. This is the best way to give detailed feedback and help ensure the outcomes are shaped to your needs as a parent and carer.

If you would be interested in participating in a focus group, please contact the project lead [charles.lawrence@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:charles.lawrence@enfield.gov.uk).

3. **Contact us directly with your feedback** – If you have any feedback, you are welcome to share this with us directly by contacting the project lead at [charles.lawrence@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:charles.lawrence@enfield.gov.uk).

We would love to hear from you.

If you have any questions about the review, please email the project lead at [charles.lawrence@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:charles.lawrence@enfield.gov.uk).

The review aims to look at the panel, the paperwork and referrals and make sure the process for allocating short breaks is fair and efficient and meets the assessed needs of children and young people. As parents and carers, it is vital your views are heard and considered so that any outcomes are shaped to the needs of you and those you care for.

You can tell the JSDC what you think in a number of different ways. They are running a survey until the **17<sup>th</sup> November** which you can access at <https://forms.office.com/e/WCFg1Bz2W1> (or via the QR code on the attached flyer) and holding an online focus group on the **14<sup>th</sup> November 10 am – 11 am**. Or you can contact the project lead [charles.lawrence@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:charles.lawrence@enfield.gov.uk) directly with your feedback.

Any feedback you give will be taken into consideration and used to shape any recommendations that the review makes for improving the process for allocating short breaks, meaning you will be helping to improve the process not only for you and your family but for other parents, carers, children, and young people across the borough.

[www.enfield.gov.uk](http://www.enfield.gov.uk)



Internal - Official - Sensitive

The JSDC would love to hear from you. If you have any questions about the review, please email the project lead at [charles.lawrence@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:charles.lawrence@enfield.gov.uk).

# Enfield Psychology Service telephone support

The Enfield Educational Psychology Service (EPS) offers parents and carers a free telephone support service which gives an opportunity to speak to a member of the EPS team about any concerns or issues regarding their child. To request a callback from the support line, use the link on the flyer or [here](#).

## Enfield Psychology Service



### Telephone support line for parents and carers

Enfield EP Service is offering Enfield parents and carers the opportunity to speak to a member of the Educational Psychology Service (EPS) about a concern or issue they may have in relation to their child.

Educational Psychologists are professionals concerned with the development, learning and social and emotional wellbeing of children and young people. Issues we can help you to think about include:

- ▶ Learning
- ▶ Emotions (e.g. fears and worries, low mood, anger)
- ▶ Transitions at school and home
- ▶ Parenting
- ▶ Resource seeking
- ▶ Signposting to appropriate services

Calls can be booked between 9.30am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday.

If you have internet access, please [fill in the online form here](#) to request a phone call.

If you don't have access to the internet, please call us to request a phone call.

## 0208 379 2000

We will do our best to respond to your request within ten working days.

A telephone consultation is not a formal referral to our service.





For more information email [eps@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:eps@enfield.gov.uk)

[www.enfield.gov.uk](http://www.enfield.gov.uk)





# Play and Leisure

See our What's on Guide [here](#) for information on SEN-specific and inclusive days out and play and leisure activities in and around the Enfield area. Events coming up include:



Booking is now open for SEND supported Gym sessions



Last week we told you about the planned SEND-supported gym sessions for young people aged 12 -25, each with a plus one to support them) which will be starting from next Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November from 4.30 – 5.30 pm at Southbury Leisure Centre. Booking has just opened for these sessions and you can find all the information and a booking link at <https://www.fusion-lifestyle.com/centres/southbury-leisure-centre/news/send-support-gym-sessions/>

## New Easy-read Health and Wellbeing newsletter

Enfield Council has just launched an Easy -Read version of their Health and Wellbeing Newsletter, which is aimed at those with a learning disability and autistic people, as well as their families and carers. The newsletter is in an easy-read format with limited text and helpful images. The monthly newsletter sends information about relevant services, support and events directly to your email inbox. To sign up, visit Enfield Council's newsletter [preference centre](#). You can also [view the latest edition online](#).

## National updates from Contact

A [review of the law on disabled children's social care in England](#) has been commenced by the Law Commission on the request of the Department for Education.

Currently, a patchwork of legislation governs disabled children's social care law, some of which dates back more than five decades. This has contributed to a variation in the amount and quality of support local authorities provide.

The overarching aim of the review will be to simplify and strengthen the law, ensuring that the system is fair and works for children, parents and local authorities.

The Law Commission has started preliminary work, with the aim of publishing a consultation in Spring 2024. To inform this process, in the coming months the Commission is engaging with a range of individuals and charities, like Contact, with experience of social care for disabled children

In particular, the Commission hopes to engage with parent carers through a combination of online discussion sessions and surveys to better understand the current barriers to accessing social care.

Read [more about social care across the UK on Contact's website](#).

**Grants, home adaptations and financial help for parent carers: your top questions answered**

Contact have [rounded up some of the top questions](#) asked during their recent Facebook Q&A session.

# Events coming up

See our 'What's On' guide to ongoing inclusive and SEND-specific play and leisure activities and days out (last updated 8<sup>th</sup> November [here](#)).

See our round-up of coffee mornings, social activities and coffee mornings for parents [here](#)

Autistic, early years and primary school age	EASA cuppa and chat – Introduction to the Autism Education Trust for Children	Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> November 9.30 – 11 am	Russet House School	Page 4 and <a href="#">here</a>
Autistic 18 months to 3 years 6 months	EASA Time to Play	Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> November 9.30 – 11 am	Russet House School	<a href="#">Page 4 and here</a>
Autistic	Understanding Your Child's Behaviour - online workshop from the London Autism Hub	Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> November	Online	See <a href="#">here</a> .
Starting primary school next year	Choosing a primary school workshop with Our Voice, SENDIASS and SEN Services	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> Nov 1 to 2.30 pm	Online via Zoom	Page 2 and <a href="#">here</a>
Autistic	Support for Siblings and Young carers – online workshop from the London Autism Hub	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Online	See <a href="#">here</a> .
Autistic	Understanding Your Child's Behaviour - online workshop from the London Autism Hub	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Online	See <a href="#">here</a> .
Autistic	Understanding and Supporting an Anxious Child - online workshop from the London Autism Hub	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	Online	See <a href="#">here</a> .
Autistic secondary school age and post-16	EASA cuppa and chat – Exams and Revision	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> November 9.30 – 11 am	Russet House School	Page 4 and <a href="#">here</a>
All	Our Voice presents: Get to Know Social Care, Short Breaks and the JSDC	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> November 10 am – 12 noon	Cheviots Childrens Disability Centre	See page 1 and <a href="#">here</a>
Autistic	Parent and Carer online support group (London Autism Hub)	Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Online	See <a href="#">here</a> .
Autistic	Support for Siblings and Young carers – online workshop from the London Autism Hub	Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	Online	See <a href="#">here</a> .
Autistic	Support for Siblings and Young carers – online workshop from the London Autism Hub	Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	Online	See <a href="#">here</a> .
Autistic	Understanding Your Child's Behaviour - online workshop from the London Autism Hub	Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	Online	See <a href="#">here</a> .
Autistic	Understanding and Supporting an Anxious Child - online workshop from the London Autism Hub	Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	Online	See <a href="#">here</a> .
Autistic	Understanding Autism – for the whole family - online workshop from the London Autism Hub	Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	Online	See <a href="#">here</a> .
Aged 14 and over	Preparing for adulthood – Support Planning	Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov 10.30 am – 12.30 pm	Integrated Learning Disability Service, Hertford Road	Page 5 and <a href="#">here</a>
All	Our Voice Christmas party	Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2 - 4.30 pm	Russet House School	See page 2

We hope that you have found our newsletter useful. If you have any feedback, or anything that you think we could be telling our families about, please let us know. Our contact details are:

Telephone 07516 662315 Email: [info@ourvoiceenfield.org.uk](mailto:info@ourvoiceenfield.org.uk)

Website: [www.ourvoiceenfield.org.uk](http://www.ourvoiceenfield.org.uk)

You can also follow us on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ourvoiceenfield/> on

[Twitter@EnfieldOurVoice](https://www.facebook.com/ourvoiceenfield/) and on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/ourvoiceenfield/>

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